

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Figures 1-2 and 5 show an example of one embodiment of a device for cutting or coagulating tissue in accordance with the present invention. The device 10 shown in these figures comprises an elongate member 14 having a foot member 16 formed on its distal end. The foot member 16 is bifurcated or divided, as shown, into a first (or right) foot member portion 22 and a second (or left) foot member portion 20, each of which has an upper surface US, an inner edge IE and a lower surface LS. As seen in at least Figures 2, 4, 4A and 5, the inner edges IE of the right and left foot member portions 20, 22 are juxtaposed to each other and an open area 24 exists therebetween between the first and second foot member portions 22, 20. The foot member 16 and each foot member portion 22, 20 has an upper surface US and a lower surface LS. An electrically and thermally insulating covering 30 is formed on the foot member 16. In this example, the insulating covering 30 covers the entire foot member 16 including the upper US and lower LS surfaces thereof. It will be appreciated, however, that in some embodiments of the device 10 the insulating covering 30 may be disposed only on the lower surface LS of the foot member 16 or only on the lower surfaces LS of the foot member portions 22, 20. As may be seen in the cross section of figure 5, the foot member 16 may be formed of conductive core material such as metal (e.g., medical grade stainless steel) and the covering 30 may be formed of a coating disposed on the surface of the core material. The coating that forms the insulating covering 30 may comprise a dielectric polymer such as polyimide and may be applied by any suitable means including but not limited to; single layer dip coating, multi layer dip coating, painting, powder coating (e.g., electro static), vapor deposition, etc.